

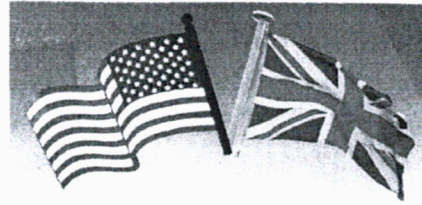
WESTWARD EXPANSION UNIT

NOTES OBJ #2: SELF STUDY

WAR OF 1812

****THESE ARE YOUR NOTES DO NOT THROW AWAY****

The countries inside of the continent of Europe were in a war with each other and they needed supplies for their war. Great Britain (England) is one of these countries and they need supplies from the United States. The United States trades (to trade is to exchange or buy and sell items) with Great Britain, but then the people of the United States realize they are not making much money, so they quit trading with Great Britain. When the United States quits trading with Great Britain, Great Britain gets really mad and they decide they want to go WAR with the United States because they are so mad about their trade supplies being cut off. **This is called the War of 1812, between the United States and Great Britain.** Why do you think that they called it the War of 1812, because it started in the year 1812!



America vs. Great Britain

Not every American wanted to go to war, they had not been out of the Revolutionary War that long and wars were expensive and people are killed in war. However, there were some people that really wanted to go to war, these people were called *War Hawks*. War Hawks wanted America to go to war against Great Britain.



The British burning down the White House

Even though this was called a War, we are not going to go into detail about the actual battles, but just look at who fought and who won. The British decide they are going to get the help of the Native Americans to fight on their side, and the Native Americans wanted to help fight against the Americans because the Americans were taking their land. In the War of 1812, the British with the help of the Native Americans are able to march into Washington DC and burn down the city and the White House. One of the very famous battles was the Battle of

New Orleans where Andrew Jackson (he later becomes a President so make sure you remember him) defeats a ton of British soldiers and becomes a military hero.

As the war is going on both sides are fighting and both sides are staying even, America wins one battle, then Great Britain wins the next. Neither side can destroy the other side enough to make



Andrew Jackson holding off British soldiers at the Battle of New Orleans

them surrender (give up). Both sides know that they can't defeat (beat) each other, so they both agree to stop fighting before more soldiers are killed and more money is wasted. America and Great Britain both sign the ***Treaty of Ghent***, which says both sides agree to stop fighting and the War of 1812 is over. Even though neither side won, this war was important because it showed that America could stand up against Great Britain!



Sir Francis Scott Key

During the War of 1812 a man by the name of *Sir Francis Scott Key* becomes very famous. Sir Francis Scott Key becomes famous for writing the Star Spangled Banner. Sir Francis Scott Key is captured by the British and handcuffed below a ship, while he was handcuffed he could see fighting going on from a small window. It was after his release when Key wrote a poem about his experiences. After he wrote this poem it was then turned into the *Star Spangled Banner*, which became America's National Anthem.

RECALLING FACTS:

Who fought in the war of 1812?

What important item did the British destroy in America?

Who is Andrew Jackson?

CRITICAL THINKING:

Why do you think that there were some Americans who refused (did not want to) go to war with Great Britain (England)?

Why would the Native Americans be on the side of the British and fight against the Americans?

DEFINE:

War Hawks:

Treaty of Ghent:

Star Spangled Banner:

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OBJ # 5: NATIVE AMERICANS

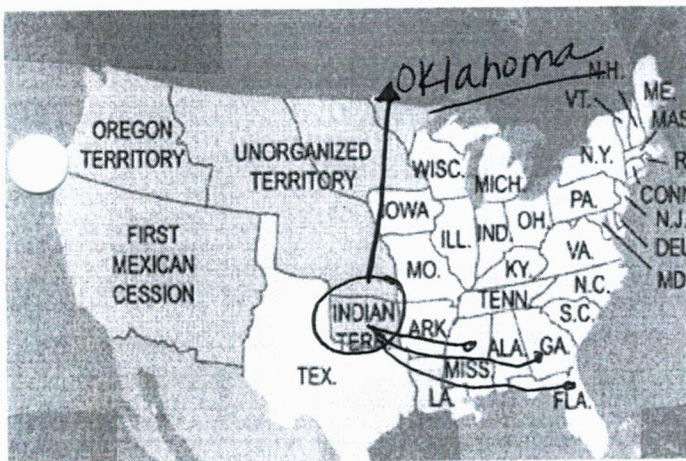
****THESE ARE YOUR NOTES: DO NOT THROW AWAY****

As America begins to grow, people need more room and continue to keep moving West. The problem with people moving West is that the Native Americans (Indians) are living there. The Native Americans have been kicked out of their homes so many times, and we are going to see that they are going to be kicked out again.

The President at the time was Andrew Jackson, and he was known for not being a big fan of the Native Americans. President Andrew Jackson wanted to use the land that the Native Americans were living on for farming for the American people. This area that he wanted to take away from the Native Americans and give to the Americans was in the South and expanded from Georgia to Mississippi.



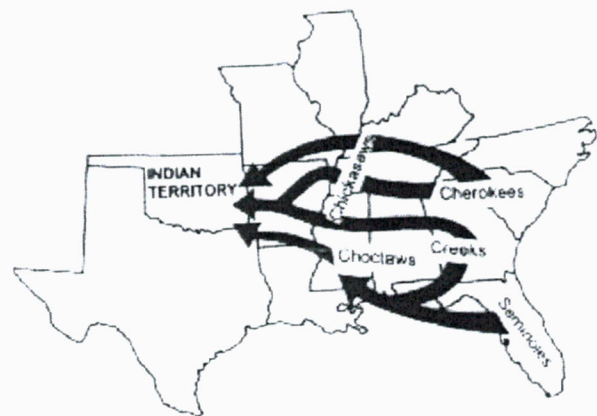
Andrew Jackson



President Jackson knew that the Native Americans would not just give up their land and move, so President Jackson decides he is going to force the Indians to move. The United States government agrees with President Jackson and passes a law called the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Indian Removal Act said that all land East of Mississippi belongs to the United States and the United States would give the Native Americans land in Oklahoma, and the Native American must move. The problem with this was that the Native Americans used their land to farm on and grow their food, remember, there are no grocery stores or McDonalds, so in order to eat, they must farm and hunt. The new land in Oklahoma was bad for farming and hunting, but the government did not care, they just wanted the Native Americans out so they could use the land.

Indians were kicked out of their home in Georgia and Mississippi and sent to Oklahoma (Indian Territory)

A large tribe of Native Americans called the Cherokee decide that they are not going to move and sue President Jackson because he was kicking them out of their home. The case goes all the way to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court says that the Native Americans can stay in their home, and the government could not kick them out. However, President Jackson decides that he is not going to follow their order and kick the Native Americans out anyways.



Indians removed from South to Oklahoma (Indian Territory)



Native Americans on the Trail of Tears

President Jackson sends in 7,000 soldiers to force the Cherokee Indians out of their homes. The soldiers are armed with weapons and the Native Americans have no choice but to be forced to move. The soldiers forced the Indians to walk on what is called the *Trail of Tears*, where many Indians died along the way. The Trail of Tears was an 800 mile walk from Georgia to Oklahoma, where the Indians were freezing, starving, treated badly by the soldiers, and many caught diseases and died on this trip. The state of Oklahoma was promised to the Native Americans as their land, but as we will see later, the United States government may not keep their promise.



"The Trail of Tears"



Ms. B. Elizabeth (Pine) Stebbins, born 1843

A Cherokee woman who walked the Trail of Tears

Recalling Facts:

Who was the President that put in place the Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears? _____
 What area were the Indians being kicked out of? _____
 What area were the Indians was their new home? _____
 Why were the Indians being kicked out of their home? _____

Critical Thinking:

Why *do you think* that President Jackson did not follow the Supreme Court's decision and still removed the Indians from their land? _____

Why *do you think* that people thought it was alright to kick the Native Americans out of their land? _____

Define:

Indian Removal Act: _____

Trail of Tears: _____

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OBJ # 7: GOLD RUSH AND OREGON TRAIL

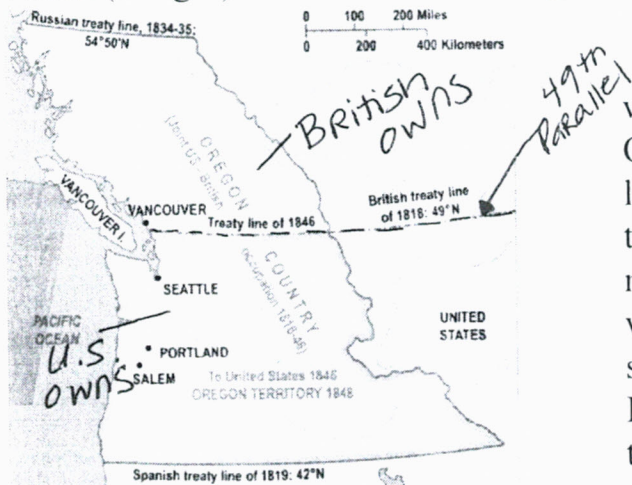
****THESE ARE YOUR NOTES: DO NOT THROW AWAY****

America continues to expand to the West and people look for new places to live that are not so crowded. News spread of great land in Oregon and many people decide that they are going to make Oregon their new home. There were a few problems with people wanting to move to Oregon, the first was that it was very difficult to get to. People would have to take the Oregon Trail, which was a long and rough trail, where many people died along the way. It took several months to travel from the East to the West, so winter would hit and people would die of starvation (hunger) and from the freezing cold.



Oregon Trail: Went from Missouri to Oregon

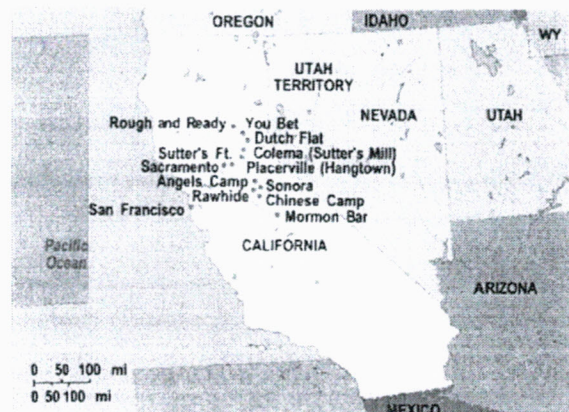
Another problem besides the horrible trip was the question of who actually owned the Oregon territory. America claimed it was their land, and Great Britain (England) claimed it was their land. Since so many Americans had been moving there because of the Oregon Trail, there were way more Americans than British there. Both sides wanted the land and did not want give it up. In order to avoid going to war, both sides agree they will split the land. The Oregon territory was split at the 49th Parallel, this is now the border between the United States and Canada. Both America and Great Britain got part of the land and



49th Parallel: America and Great Britain split the Oregon territory. This is now the boarder of Canada and the United States.

they did not even have to go to war, so both sides were happy. This added Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming to the United States.

While all of this is going on with Oregon, people begin moving to California for one main reason, **GOLD!!** Remember after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California now belongs to the United States. In 1848 workers near San Francisco were working at Sutter's Mill and discovered gold. They tried to keep the gold a secret, but news got out and within one year



Cities in California where gold was discovered.

over 100,000 people had moved to California in search of gold. These people who came looking for gold were known as the 49'ers. The reason for the nickname 49'ers was because they came in the year of 1849. This time period became known as the Gold Rush!



Boomtown camp in California.

So many people came to California so fast that the police could not keep up with all of these people and crime went up like crazy. These towns were known as “Boomtowns” because they came up out of nowhere. In many of the towns they did not have a government because the town was created so fast. In 1850 California became a state. When California becomes a state, they decide they are not going to allow slavery in California, which creates problems in Congress. We will talk about how this is a problem a bit later.

Recalling Facts:

Explain the reason why people want to move to the Oregon Territory?

Where was the Oregon territory split at? _____

Why did people want to move to California? _____

What is the reason America now owned California?

Critical Thinking:

Describe the problem it would cause with Great Britain when Americans began moving to Oregon?

Why *do you think* that when gold was first discovered at Sutter's Mill they tried to keep it a secret?

Define:

49th Parallel: _____

Oregon Trail: _____

49'ers: _____

Boomtowns: _____
